



KETTERING
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

Health of the Rural District

FOR THE YEAR 1938,

BY

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Medical Officer of Health.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT for 1938.

HEALTH CENTRE,

MARKET STREET, KETTERING,

June, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Kettering Rural District Council.*

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Conditions of the Rural District for 1938.

I would like to thank the Clerk, Mr. Gillard, and the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Mr. Wallis, for their help and co-operation.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS O. GARLAND,

Medical Officer of Health.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

The following is a summary of the principal statistics for the years 1934, 1935, 1936, 1937, 1938 :—

	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938
Area (Acres)	46,581	64,248	64,248	64,248	64,248
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	13,000	13,390	15,410	17,080	17,710
No. of Live births	143	242	379	418	493
Legitimate	137	235	373	413	478
Illegitimate	6	7	6	5	15
Birth rate per 1,000 population	11.0	18.07	24.6	24.47	27.84
Number of Still Births	Not available	Not available	16	19	26
Legitimate	Not available	Not available	16	19	26
Illegitimate	Not available	Not available	—	—	—
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	0.30	0.89	40.51	43.48	52.94
Rate per 1,000 population	137	173	1.04	1.11	1.47
Number of Deaths	9.50	11.40	185	182	187
Death rate per 1,000 population (corrected)	69.00	63.50	10.69	9.44	9.40
Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 live births	1	2	68.6	66.99	38.54
Total Maternal Deaths	1	2	—	3	2
(a) Puerperal Sepsis	1	2	—	1	—
(b) Other Puerperal causes	—	—	—	2	2
Death rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	0.62	0.37	0.39	0.06	0.56
Death rate from all forms of Tuberculosis	0.62	0.37	0.52	0.23	0.62

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR, 1938.

	Rate per 1,000 Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Total deaths under 1 year.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years.
England and Wales	15.1	0.60	11.6	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.11	53	5.5
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns (including London) ...	15.0	0.65	11.7	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.01	0.03	0.07	0.10	57	7.8
148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000—50,000) ...	15.4	0.60	11.0	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.02	0.06	0.11	51	3.6
London	13.4	0.48	11.4	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.06	57	13.1
Kettering Rural District ...	27.84	1.47	9.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.11	0.11	38.54	2.03

The Maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :—				Puerperal Sepsis.			Other.		Total.	
Per 1,000 Live Births				...	...	...	2.19	2.19	3.08	3.08
Per 1,000 Total Births				...	...	...	0.86	2.11	2.97	2.97
The Maternal mortality rates for Kettering Rural District :—										
Per 1,000 Live Births				...	...	...	Nil	4.06	4.06	4.06
Per 1,000 Total Births				...	...	...	Nil	3.85	3.85	3.85

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (Acres)	...	...	...	...	64,248
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938	...	...	...	...	17,710
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	5,741
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£97,900
Sum represented by 1d. rate	...	...	...	...	£396 10s. 9d.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are as follows :—Ironstone quarrying and manufacture of iron, steel and steel tubes, farming, clothing manufacture, manufacture of boots and shoes.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Live-births :

			Total	Males.	Females.
Legitimate	...	...	478	260	218
Illegitimate	...	...	15	6	9
Totals	...	...	493	266	227

Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population ... 27.84

			Total	Males.	Females.
Still-births	...	...	26	13	13

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) Births ... 52.94

			Total	Males	Females.
Deaths	...	...	187	107	80

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population ... 9.40

Deaths from puerperal causes :—					2
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	Nil
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	2

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births ... 3.85

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	38.54
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				37.45
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births				66.67

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1

As compared with the year 1937 the birth-rate is higher by 3·37 per 1,000 of the population and the death rate is lower by 0·04.

The birth-rate exceeds the deaths by 18·44 per 1,000 of the population.

The number of deaths registered was 187 of which 107 were males and 80 were females.

The crude death rate per 1,000 population for the year 1938 was 10·56 which, multiplied by the comparability factor 0·89, supplied by the Registrar-General, gave a corrected death rate of 9·40 as compared with 11·6 for England and Wales. The death rate of 9·40 is the rate which, it is assumed, would be arrived at if the age and sex constitution of the population of Kettering Rural District were distributed in the same proportion as that for England and Wales as a whole.

The REGISTERED CAUSES OF DEATH were as follows :—

	M.	F.	Total
All Causes	107	80	187
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
2. Measles	—	—	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	1	1	2
5. Diphtheria	2	—	2
6. Influenza	2	—	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—
8. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	2	2
9. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	5	5	10
10. Other tuberculous diseases	1	—	1
11. Syphilis	—	—	—
12. General paralysis of the insane, tabes dorsalis	—	1	1
13. Cancer	9	13	22
14. Diabetes	1	3	4
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage	7	4	11
16. Heart Disease	18	16	34
17. Aneurism	—	—	—
18. Other circulatory diseases	7	8	15
19. Bronchitis	2	1	3
20. Pneumonia (all forms)	9	5	14
21. Other respiratory diseases	3	—	3

				M.	F.	Total
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	1	—	1
23.	Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1	—	1
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	1	—	1
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	—	—	—
26.	Other diseases of liver	...	...	—	—	—
27.	Other digestive diseases	...	...	2	2	4
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	3	1	4
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	—	—	—
30.	Other puerperal causes	...	...	—	2	2
31.	Congenital debility, premature birth, etc.	...	...	11	2	13
32.	Senility	...	...	—	5	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	1	4	5
34.	Other violence	...	...	13	2	15
35.	Other defined diseases	...	...	7	2	9
	(a) Smallpox	...	...	—	—	—
	(b) Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
	(c) Polioencephalitis	...	...	—	—	—
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	—	1	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for Burton Latimer Urban District, Desborough Urban District and Rothwell Urban District, and is, in addition, Assistant County Medical Officer.

The office of Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor is a joint appointment and the officer is an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

The assistant Sanitary Inspector is also an Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Chemical and Bacteriological examinations are undertaken by the Clinical Research Association Limited, London, and at the County Public Health Laboratory and the Northampton General Hospital Laboratory. The following specimens were examined :—

Swabs (for diphtheria)	...	33	
Blood	...	1	
Water	...	30	=Chemical
			examinations
			7
			Bacteriological
			examinations
			23

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

Infectious cases are removed by a motor ambulance stationed at the Isolation Hospital in the Borough of Kettering.

Non-infectious and accident cases are removed by ambulance under the efficient administration of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. There are 2 ambulances in the Rural District. One, stationed at Weldon, is under the supervision of the Corps Superintendent who is resident in Kettering, and maintains co-operation with the ambulances stationed at Burton Latimer, Desborough, Kettering and Rothwell. The other ambulance is a private one maintained by Messrs. Stewarts and Lloyds at Corby for the use of their works only.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME.

(1) *General.* The District Nursing Association affiliated to the County Nursing Association makes the services of whole time nurses available for general cases.

(2) *Infectious Diseases.* The services of a special nurse in certain specified cases of infectious diseases are available under arrangements made between the Local and County Nursing Associations and the County Council.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

Persons suffering from venereal diseases are treated at Northampton General Hospital by arrangement with the County Public Health Department.

The County Council is the authority for the treatment of Tuberculosis and the Tuberculosis Officer attends weekly at the Health Clinic, Market Street, Kettering.

An Orthopædic Clinic is held in Kettering and children from Kettering Rural District may attend by arrangement with the County Public Health Department.

Under the County Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme a Child Welfare Clinic is held on the second, third and fourth Thursdays in each month at Corby.

(e) HOSPITALS.

The following hospitals are available for inhabitants of Kettering and District :—

Kettering Infectious Diseases Joint Hospital.

Rushden House Sanatorium.

Kettering and District General Hospital.

London Road Public Assistance Hospital, Kettering.

Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Northampton General Hospital.

Market Harborough General Hospital.

Manfield Orthopædic Hospital.

(f) CONTRACEPTIVE CLINIC.

A contraceptive clinic is conducted by Dr. Mary Hendrie at the Infant Welfare Centre, Eyechurch Lane, Northampton, on the third and fourth Thursday in each month. Appointments can be made for the attendance of suitable cases on application to the Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION C & E.

 SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA AND
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

REPORT BY SAMUEL WALLIS, A.R.San.I.

WATER SUPPLY. During the past year there has been no scarcity of water in the District. At Corby a new Water Tower, with a capacity of 80,000 gallons, has been erected, which is 100 ft. high. A new filtration plant has been installed at the Old Well off Kelvin Grove.

The water supply from Cranford has been extended to Grafton Underwood, the expense of the mains, etc. from the parish boundary being paid for by the Boughton Estates, who own the whole village except two houses.

Water schemes for Gretton and Loddington are under consideration.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The new Sewage Disposal Works at Corby have been completed.

Land for the extension of the existing Sewage Disposal Works has been acquired at Broughton.

The village Septic Tanks have been cleaned out.

RIVERS AND STREAMS. No complaint has been received during the past year.

SCAVENGING. The Hard Refuse is collected at Broughton, Cranford, Cransley, Geddington, Newton, Grafton Underwood, Gretton, Loddington, Pytchley, Rushton and Weldon, Night Soil being collected at Geddington, Gretton, Rushton and Weldon.

SMOKE ABATEMENT. At Corby the Company concerned go to much trouble to avoid a nuisance arising.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES. There is a public convenience for both sexes at Corby.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS. No case of bed bug infestation occurred during the year.

SANITARY INSPECTION WORK CARRIED OUT IN THE AREA. All premises were inspected where a case of Infectious Disease occurred. All factories, workshops and bakehouses were inspected. The following nuisances were dealt with :—

Privies converted to Water Closets	...	9
Pails converted to Water Closets	...	5
Drains cleared	... ..	46
Offensive accumulations removed	...	4
Pumps and wells repaired	... ..	18
Roofs repaired	... ..	41
Animals improperly kept	... ..	5
Drains relaid	... ..	36
Water analysed	... ..	20
Miscellaneous defects	... ..	56

No legal proceedings were taken, seven preliminary notices proving satisfactory.

There is only one offensive trade, a knacker's yard, situate in an isolated position which is satisfactory.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT. Poison baits have periodically been laid on the refuse dumps and sewage disposal works in the area.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS. The following table gives an account of the work done under this Act :—

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections made. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions. (4)
Factories with mechanical power	20	...	...
Factories without mechanical power	49	...	...
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	3	...	...
TOTAL	72	Nil	Nil

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness ...	7	7	...	...
Overcrowding ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature	...	...	...	...
Inadequate ventilation ...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors ... ..	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences :				
Insufficient ... ..	...	...	...	...
Unsuitable or defective ...	3	3	...	...
Not separate for sexes ...	...	...	...	...
Other offences : (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937) ... ..	...	...	...	...
TOTAL	10	10	...	...

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. Samples of milk forwarded to the County Council for testing for cleanliness, showed out of 66 samples submitted, 4 were moderate, 11 were bad, and the remainder were good.

In previous years the purity of the milk supply and the condition of cowsheds has been controlled by the Joint Dairies and Cowsheds Committee and a report by the local veterinary inspector, Mr. Trevor Spencer, to that Committee, has included Kettering Rural District, and has been included in this Annual Report. At the beginning of April, 1938, the inspection of cows contributing to the public milk supply was taken over by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Mr. Spencer was allocated a district which included part of the County not under the jurisdiction of the Kettering Committee in addition to part of his former district. As there would be considerable difficulty in sorting out those which belong or do not belong to the area of the Joint Dairies and Cowsheds Committee, it has been decided this year to omit from the Annual Report a report by Mr. Trevor Spencer.

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The following table shows the number of animals inspected, and a classification of the diseases discovered. All diseased meat was voluntarily destroyed :—

	Cattle (excluding Cows.)	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number inspected ...	413	110	24	1,722	893
<i>All diseases except tuberculosis :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	—	1	—	6	2
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	5	5	—	4	9
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ...	1.2 ⁰ / ₀	5.5 ⁰ / ₀	—	0.6 ⁰ / ₀	1.2 ⁰ / ₀
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	4	—	1	—	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	7	7	—	—	18
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ...	2.7 ⁰ / ₀	6.4 ⁰ / ₀	4.2 ⁰ / ₀	—	2.4 ⁰ / ₀

Number of visits made to slaughterhouses	...	...	549
Number of slaughterhouses in use in the district	...	...	16
Number of licensed slaughtermen in the district	...	...	44

FRIED FISH SHOPS. There are four of these shops in the district. They were regularly inspected.

BAKEHOUSES. There are twenty-six bakehouses in use in the area, all of which were regularly inspected. Limewashing was carried out as required, and five other defects received attention as a result of these inspections.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Building continues in the District, and the following table shows plans approved :—

Broughton	...	...	...	11
Corby	...	...	...	65
Weldon	...	...	...	5
Geddington	...	...	...	3
Other Villages	...	...	...	21
				<hr/> 105 <hr/>

During the year this Council erected 14 houses at Cottingham, 5 at Weldon and 5 at Geddington for people from condemned houses. Work is commencing on 5 houses at Broughton and 2 at Pytchley.

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	316
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	718
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	57
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	...	114

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	45
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	89
2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :	
Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	89
3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—	
(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	16
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	34
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	7
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	7
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	Nil
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	29
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	21

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV.—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	15
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	15
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	100
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	21
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	30
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	223
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ...	Nil

PYTCHLEY.

A Special Report on the housing situation in Pytchley was presented to the Council in October by the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION F.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The total number of cases of infectious diseases, excluding tuberculosis, notified during the year was 69. This figure shows a decrease of 3 on the number for 1937, and compares with 69 for 1936, 69 for 1935, 36 for 1934, 58 for 1933, and 37 for 1932.

An analysis of the notified cases appears in the following tables :—

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING 1938.

	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 yrs.	2 and under 3 yrs.	3 and under 4 yrs.	4 and under 5 years.	5 and under 10 yrs.	10 and under 15 yrs.	15 and under 20 yrs.	20 and under 35 yrs.	35 and under 45 yrs.	45 and under 65 yrs.	65 yrs. and over	Total Cases removed to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	30	—	1	1	1	2	13	7	4	1	—	—	—	21	—
Diphtheria	19	—	—	2	—	—	8	3	2	4	—	—	—	18	2
Enteric Fever	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
(including Paratyphoid)	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	8	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	3	—	—	1	3
Erysipelas	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2*
	69	1	1	5	3	2	22	10	6	10	4	5	—	45	6

* See special note on Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED FROM
DIFFERENT PARISHES IN THE DISTRICT IN 1938.

		Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Total
Brampton Ash	...	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Broughton	...	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Corby	...	—	22	16	—	1	6	3	3	51
Cranford	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Geddington	...	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
Gretton	...	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	4
Pytchley	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
Rushton	...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Warkton	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Weldon	...	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Total	...	—	30	19	—	3	8	6	3	69

The number of notifications of each disease received per month varied from 10 in January to 1 in August, as shown below :—

NUMBER OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED EACH MONTH
DURING THE YEAR 1938.

Month.		Small pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid).	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Total
January	...	—	9	1	—	—	—	—	—	10
February	...	—	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
March	...	—	2	—	—	—	2	—	1	5
April	...	—	1	6	—	—	—	1	—	8
May	...	—	1	4	—	1	1	—	1	8
June	...	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	3
July	...	—	2	3	—	—	—	1	—	6
August	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
September	...	—	2	1	—	1	3	—	—	7
October	...	—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
November	...	—	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	6
December	...	—	4	1	—	—	—	2	—	7
Total	...	—	30	19	—	3	8	6	3	69

SMALLPOX. No case of this disease occurred in the Rural District during the year 1938.

SCARLET FEVER. Thirty cases of scarlet fever were notified showing an increase of 5 on the number for the preceding year ; 21 were removed to hospital. The remainder were nursed at home. Twenty-two or 73 per cent. were children of school age.

The disease was of a mild type and there were no deaths.

The largest number of notifications in any one month was 9 in January.

Twenty-two or 73 per cent. of the cases occurred in the Parish of Corby where almost two-thirds of the total population of the District is located.

Scarlet Fever antitoxin is available to practitioners free of charge for the treatment of necessitous cases of scarlet fever.

DIPHTHERIA. The notifications numbered 19 which shows an increase of 13 on the number for the previous year.

Eleven of the cases were children of school age. Eighteen were removed to hospital.

One case, an infant, died. There was a second death from this disease which occurred outside the Rural Area although the patient normally resided within it.

Suspicious cases of diphtheria may be verified by bacteriological examination. For this purpose swab outfits are supplied to medical practitioners and specimens examined by the Clinical Research Association, London, and at the Northampton General Hospital Bacteriological Department, are reported on at the expense of the local authority.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied free to practitioners for use in necessitous cases of diphtheria treated at home or prior to removal to hospital.

ENTERIC FEVER (including PARATYPHOID). No case of this disease was notified during the year.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA. During the year 3 cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified all of which were nursed at home.

Cases of puerperal pyrexia requiring treatment are admitted to Kettering and District General Hospital or to Northampton General Hospital.

The services of a consulting obstetrician are made available to medical practitioners, by the Northamptonshire County Council, for patients unable to afford a specialist's fee.

PNEUMONIA. Eight cases, a drop of 20 on the number for last year, were notified. Six of the cases were notified from Corby.

There were 3 deaths of which 1 was a child under 1 year old.

ERYSIPELAS. The notifications of this disease were 6 in number. Two cases were treated in hospital the other 4 being nursed at home.

There were no deaths.

CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS. Five cases of this disease occurred in Corby during the year. Three of these recovered and 2 died.

Three of the cases were notified within a period of a few days and as this warranted the fear that it might herald an epidemic certain special precautions were taken. Fortunately no epidemic materialised.

CHICKENPOX, MEASLES, GERMAN MEASLES, WHOOPING COUGH, MUMPS. These diseases are not notifiable.

A case of measles occurred in a lodging house at Weldon and was removed to hospital in order that the other occupants of the house should not be exposed to the infection.

Information from head teachers shows that there was an outbreak of chickenpox at Braybrooke school at the beginning of the year and outbreaks of measles at Corby and Geddington Schools during the Spring. Where necessary the school was visited or preventive methods suggested.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM. There were no cases of this disease during 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS. The following figures show the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of 1938.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	35	29	64
Non-pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	19	27
			—
			91
			—

Sixteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 5 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1938 as compared with 16 cases and 7 cases respectively in 1937.

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
15	...	...	4	3	1	1	1	3	...	...
25	...	...	3	3	...	1	1	...	...	...
35	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	2	1	...
45	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
65 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	...	9	7	1	4	5	5	1	...

Death rate from all forms of tuberculosis per 1,000 population was 0·62 as compared with 0·23 for 1937, 0·52 for 1936, 0·37 for 1935 and 0·62 for 1934. Although this rate does not appear to be appreciably decreasing it must be remembered that the ever-increasing population of Corby with its influx of labourers and their families from the depressed areas of Scotland and Wales, presents us with a larger proportion of cases of Tuberculosis.

The occupations of the new cases at the time of notification were :—

Clerk	...	...	...	1
Domestic Servant	...	...	...	1
Electrical Engineer	...	...	...	1
Gamekeeper	...	...	...	1
Housewives	...	...	...	6
Labourers	...	...	...	4
Milkman	...	...	...	1
School children	...	...	...	2
Shop assistants	...	...	...	2
Sub-Postmaster	...	...	...	1
Tube Worker	...	...	...	1

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS 1925. These regulations empower the Council to prevent persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis from engaging in the milk trade. It was unnecessary to take action under these Regulations during 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, Section 62 and PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, Section 172. No action was taken under these Sections whereby an infectious case of pulmonary tuberculosis, which is a serious risk to others, may be compulsorily removed to hospital.

